

Message Text

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SUBJECT:EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE SEMINAR ON HIGHER
EDUCATION

REF: MOSCOW 8553

1. DEPT HAS DISCUSSED PLANS FOR JOINT SEMINAR IN HIGHER
EDUCATION WITH ROBERT FELDMESSER OF ETS FOLLOWING HIS RETURN
FROM USSR. REQUEST EMBASSY SUBMIT TO MHE AND INSTITUTE FOL-
LOWING TEXT, AGREED UPON BY ETS AND DEPT (IF KUZNETSOV DOES
NOT RECEIVE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL, REQUEST EMBASSY FURNISH HIM
WITH A COPY):

2. BEGIN TEXT: PROPOSAL FOR TWO SEMINARS IN HIGHER EDUCA-
TION: IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 4 OF ANNEX TO "GENERAL
AGREEMENT ON CONTACTS, EXCHANGES, AND COOPERATION IN SCIEN-
TIFIC, TECHNICAL, EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND OTHER FIELDS,"
THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES PROPOSES THAT THERE BE TWO
US-USSR SEMINARS ON HIGHER EDUCATION - THE FIRST TO BE HELD
IN THE US IN SPRING 1976, THE SECOND TO BE HELD IN THE USSR
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AT LATER DATE. THE ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING

AND CARRYING OUT THE SEMINARS WILL BE THE EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE (ETS) OF PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY AND THE SCIENTIFIC-RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR PROBLEMS OF THE HIGHER SCHOOL, MOSCOW. BASED ON DISCUSSIONS HELD ON JUNE 18, 1975 BETWEEN ROBERT FELDMESSER, REPRESENTING ETS, AND VALENTIN KUZNETSOV, REPRESENTING THE INSTITUTE, THE FIRST SEMINAR WILL BE ORGANIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE SEMINAR WILL BEGIN ON A DATE IN THE MIDDLE OF MARCH 1976. IT WILL OPEN WITH A SESSION OF THREE TO FOUR DAYS HELD AT THE FACILITIES OF ETS. THE SOVIET PARTICIPANTS, ESCORTED BY ONE OR MORE U.S. PARTICIPANTS, WILL THEN SPEND APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS VISITING U.S. INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, ACCORDING TO AN ITINERARY TO BE ARRANGED BY ETS. THE SEMINAR WILL CLOSE WITH ANOTHER SESSION OF THREE TO FOUR DAYS AT ETS. THE LAST DAY WILL BE DEVOTED TO DISCUSSIONS OF FURTHER EXCHANGES, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR A SECOND SEMINAR WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE SOVIET UNION AT A LATER DATE. TOTAL LENGTH OF THE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES WILL BE FOUR WEEKS.

B. THE SEMINAR WILL DEAL WITH TWO TOPICS: (A) THE SELECTION AND GUIDANCE OF STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION, INCLUDING METHODS, ORGANIZATION, AND SCOPE OF THE SEARCH FOR TALENT; THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL BASES OF SELECTION; AND THE FUNCTIONS OF SELECTION AND GUIDANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROFESSIONAL ORIENTATIONS AMONG STUDENTS; (B) THE MEANING OF THE DEGREE IN HIGHER EDUCATION, INCLUDING DEFINITION AND MEASUREMENT OF THE COMPETENCIES FOR WHICH DEGREES ARE AWARDED; THE MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS FOR LEARNING ACQUIRED UNDER VARYING CIRCUMSTANCES; AND PROBLEMS IN ESTABLISHING THE EQUIVALENCE OF DEGREES AWARDED BY DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS AND IN DIFFERENT NATIONS.

C. THERE WILL BE SIX TO EIGHT PARTICIPANTS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND SIX TO EIGHT PARTICIPANTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION. SELECTION OF THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPANTS WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE, AND SELECTION OF THE SOVIET PARTICIPANTS WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INSTITUTE FOR PROBLEMS OF THE HIGHER SCHOOL. PARTICIPANTS

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WILL BE CHOSEN FOR THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN THE TOPICS OF THE SEMINAR AND FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN FURTHER EXCHANGES ABOUT THEM. IN ADDITION, EACH SIDE WILL BE PERMITTED ONE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT OBSERVER AT EACH OF THE SEMINARS.

D. THE SEMINAR WILL BEGIN WITH BRIEF PRESENTATIONS IN WHICH ONE SOVIET AND ONE US PARTICIPANT DESCRIBE THE DYNAMICS OF

HIGHER EDUCATION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. FOUR PAPERS WILL BE PREPARED FOR THE SEMINAR -- ONE ON EACH TOPIC BY A SOVIET PARTICIPANT AND ONE ON EACH TOPIC BY A U.S. PARTICIPANT. AUTHORS WILL BE SELECTED BY THE INSTITUTE AND ETS. PAPERS ARE TO BE NOT MORE THAN 25 DOUBLE-SPACED PAGES IN LENGTH AND EACH ONE SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A GLOSSARY OF IMPORTANT TERMS THAT MIGHT BE UNFAMILIAR TO PARTICIPANTS FROM THE OTHER COUNTRY. ETS WILL SEND THE US PAPERS IN BOTH ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE VERSIONS TO THE INSTITUTE BY FEBRUARY 15, 1976. THE INSTITUTE WILL SEND THE SOVIET PAPERS IN BOTH RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSIONS TO ETS BY FEBRUARY 15, 1976. ETS AND THE INSTITUTE WILL REPRODUCE THE PAPERS AND DISTRIBUTE COPIES TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, EMPHASIZING THAT THEY ARE TO BE READ IN ADVANCE OF THE SEMINAR, WHICH WILL BE DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES RAISED IN THEM. A DECISION AS TO WHETHER TO SEEK PUBLICATION OF THE PAPERS AND THE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE MADE AT A LATER DATE.

E. THE COSTS OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR SOVIET PARTICIPANTS FROM THE USSR TO THE US AND RETURN WILL BE PAID BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. THE COSTS OF TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SOVIET PARTICIPANTS WITHIN THE US WILL BE PAID BY THE US DEPT OF STATE. IT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ETS TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PAYING THE COSTS OF TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS OF THE US PARTICIPANTS. THE US DEPT OF STATE WILL PROVIDE THE SERVICES OF TWO INTERPRETERS AT THE SEMINAR SESSIONS AND DURING THE VISITS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. END TEXT.

3. FELDMESSER ALSO WRITING KUZNETSOV INFORMING HIM THAT EMBASSY WILL MAKE FORMAL PROPOSAL BASED ON JUNE 18 DISCUSSIONS. DEPT BELIEVES FORMAL PROPOSAL SUBMITTED VIA EMBASSY UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL MEET SOVIET NEED FOR OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF SEMINARS. FOR SECOND SEMINAR DEPT WILL PAY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OF US PARTICIPANTS AND UNDERSTANDS SOVIETS WILL COVER ALL COSTS WITHIN USSR. SISCO

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